

## PHIL 313 Lec 1 and Lec 2 – “Bioethics”

**Winter Term 2015**

### Course Outline

Lec 1: MW 15:30-16:45 in ST 128

Lec 2: MW 17:00-18:15in ST 128

**Instructor:** Walter Glannon

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday: 13:30-15:30

### ***Course Description***

This course addresses the main ethical positions and arguments in six areas of biotechnology and medicine: the patient-doctor relationship; medical research involving humans; reproductive rights and technologies; genetics, medical decisions at the end of life; and the allocation of scarce medical resources. The aim of the course is to engage students in critically reflecting on how these issues positively and negatively affect people’s lives. It also aims to show that debates and disagreements in bioethics and medical ethics can be conducted and resolved in more than one reasonable way.

### ***Required Texts***

*Bioethics: An Anthology*, second edition, Helga Kuhse and Peter Singer, eds. (Blackwell, 2006) (K&S)

*Biomedical Ethics*, Walter Glannon (Oxford University Press, 2005)

*Choosing Children*, Jonathan Glover (Oxford University Press, 2006)

Course Pack (at Bound and Copied)

### ***Evaluation***

In-class quiz Wednesday January 21= 10 percent

In-class exam Wednesday February 25= 40 percent

In-class exam Monday March 30= 40 percent

In-class quiz Wednesday April 15= 10 percent

There will be no Registrar-scheduled final examination.

### ***Grading Method***

98-100 = A+	86-89 = B+	74-77 = C+	62-65 = D+
93-97 = A	82-85 = B	70-73 = C	58-61 = D
90-92 = A-	78-81 = B-	66-69 = C-	< 57 = F

### ***Policy on Missed Quizzes and Exams***

Students with medical or other extenuating reasons for not taking a quiz or exam on the designated date will not be penalized if they inform the instructor and provide him with documentation confirming the special circumstances. They can make up the quiz or exam after consultation with the instructor.

## SCHEDULE

**January 12, 14:** Introduction: past, present, and future prominent issues in bioethics; ethical theories and bioethical principles. Readings: Kuhse and Singer (K&S), *Bioethics*, "Introduction," Glannon, *Biomedical Ethics*, Chapter 1.

**January 19, 21:** Patient-Doctor Relationship: Readings: Kant, "On a Supposed Right to Lie from Altruistic Motives," 603-604 in K&S; Collins, "Should Doctors Tell the Truth?" 605-610 in K&S; Higgs, "On Telling Patients the Truth," 611-617 in K&S; Jauhar, "When Doctors Need to Lie," in Course Pack; Mill, "On Liberty," 621-623 in K&S, Glannon, Chapter 2

### **January 21: In-Class Quiz**

**January 26, 28:** Patient-Doctor Relationship: Readings: Brody, "The Lie that Heals," in Course Pack; Walton, "Is it Ethical for Doctors to Prescribe Placebos?" in Course Pack; Macklin, "The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Different Cultures," 664-675 in K&S.

**February 2, 4:** Medical Research Involving Humans: Readings: Beecher, "Ethics and Clinical Research," 505-512 in K&S, Freedman, "Equipoise and the Ethics of Clinical Research," 513-519 in K&S; Glannon, Chapter 3.

**February 9, 11:** Medical Research Involving Humans: Readings: Harris, "Scientific Research Is a Moral Duty," in Course Pack; Shapshay and Pimple, "Participation in Research is an Imperfect Moral Duty: A Reply to John Harris," in Course Pack.

### **February 16, 18: Reading Period**

**February 23:** Film: "Extreme Measures."

### **February 25: In-Class Exam**

**March 2, 4:** Reproductive Rights and Technologies: Readings: Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion," 40-50 in K&S; Marquis, "Why Abortion Is Immoral," 51-62 in K&S; Glannon, Chapter 4.

**March 9, 11:** Reproductive Rights and Technologies: Readings: Parfit, "Rights, Interests, and Possible People," 108-112 in K&S; Purdy, "Genetics and Reproductive Risk: Can Having Children Be Immoral?" 115-121 in K&S; Asch, "Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortion," 122-136 in K&S; Savulescu, "Sex Selection: The Case For," 145-149 in K&S; Savulescu, "Procreative Beneficence," in Course Pack.

**March 16, 18:** Genetics: Readings: Glover, "Questions about Some Uses of Genetic Engineering," 187-197 in K&S; Davis, "Genetic Dilemmas and the Child's Right to an Open Future," 246-256 in K&S; Glover, *Choosing Children*; Glannon, Chapter 5.

**March 23, 25:** Genetics: Readings: Glover, *Choosing Children*. Medical Decisions at the End of Life: Readings: Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia," 288-291 in K&S; Kuhse, "Why Killing Is not Always Worse—and Sometimes Better—than Letting Die," 297-300 in K&S.

### **March 30: In-Class Exam**

**April 1, 6:** Medical Decisions at the End of Life: Readings: Callahan, "When Self-Determination Runs Amok," 381-385 in K&S; New England Journal of Medicine, "Physician-Assisted Suicide," Biller-Andorno and Somerville in Course Pack.

**April 8:** Film: "The Sea Inside;" Film: "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly."

**April 13:** Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources: Readings: Menzel, "Rescuing Lives: Can We Count?" 407-409 in K&S; Harris, "The Value of Life," 428-436 in K&S; Moss and Siegler, "Should Alcoholics Compete Equally for Liver Transplantation?" 421-427 in K&S; Brudney, "Are Alcoholics Less Deserving of Liver Transplants?" in Course Pack; Glannon, Chapter 7

## **April 15: In-Class Quiz**

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### **Academic Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

### **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

### **Student Advising and Information Resources**

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/> for more information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

### **Protection of Privacy**

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

### **Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives**

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### **Safewalk**

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.